



## Temperature-related deaths in people with psychosis, dementia and substance misuse

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### Abstract:

**BACKGROUND:** Climate change is expected to have significant effects on human health, partly through an increase in extreme events such as heatwaves. People with mental illness may be at particular risk. **AIMS:** To estimate risk conferred by high ambient temperature on patients with psychosis, dementia and substance misuse. **METHOD:** We applied time-series regression analysis to data from a nationally representative primary care cohort study. Relative risk of death per 1 degrees C increase in temperature was calculated above a threshold. **RESULTS:** Patients with mental illness showed an overall increase in risk of death of 4.9% (95% CI 2.0-7.8) per 1 degrees C increase in temperature above the 93rd percentile of the annual temperature distribution. Younger patients and those with a primary diagnosis of substance misuse demonstrated greatest mortality risk. **CONCLUSIONS:** The increased risk of death during hot weather in patients with psychosis, dementia and substance misuse has implications for public health strategies during heatwaves.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.111.100404>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Meteorological Factors, Temperature

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Europe

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

**European Region/Country:** European Country

**Other European Country :** England

**Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** General Mental Effect/Stress, Mood Disorder, Schizophrenia/Delusional Disorder, Substance-Induced Disorder

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Mentally ill; substance abusers;users of psychotropic meds

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified